

Ipsos MORI February 2021 Political Monitor Topline Results

8th February 2021

Fieldwork: 29th January – 4th February 2020

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,056 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone: 29th January – 4th February 2021. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Where percentages do not sum to 100 this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers. An asterisk (*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party and in the headline figures, are filtered as discussed below. Data are based on all adults unless otherwise stated

Voting Intention

Voting intention polls between elections are a measurement of how a representative sample of the public think they would vote at a given point in time. Voting intentions should be read in conjunction with other political indicators.

Voting intentions: headline indicator

Our headline indicator takes into account past voting behaviour (do people always or usually vote in general elections, or say it depends) as well as stated likelihood to vote in an upcoming election (those who say they are at least 9 out of 10 certain to vote). We continually review our methods, and may make further refinements to our methodology in the future.

As previously, please note that this measure is not based on the assumption that this is the group who will vote at the next general election, as this population is not accurately identifiable at this stage of a parliament. Rather, it includes only those voters whose past behaviour and frame of mind is nearest to those who actually vote at elections.

All polls are subject to a wide range of potential sources of error. On the basis of the historical record of the polls at recent general elections, there is a 9 in 10 chance that the true value of a party’s support lies within 4 points of the estimates provided by this poll, and a 2 in 3 chance that they lie within 2 points. This is especially important to keep in mind when calculating party lead figures.

Q1 **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**
IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1a

Q1b **Which party are you most inclined to support?**

Base: All 9-10 certain to vote and always/usually/depends vote in General Elections (769)

	February 2021	December 2020
	%	%
Conservative	42	41
Labour	38	41
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	7	6
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	5	6
Green Party	8	5
Other	*	1
Conservative lead (±%)	+4	0
<i>Would not vote</i>	1	1
<i>Undecided</i>	5	4
<i>Refused</i>	2	2

Voting intentions: all naming a party

The voting intention figures based on all those giving a voting intention is the measure with the longest pedigree; our regular trends on this basis go back to the 1970s. When turnouts were much higher than is usual today, this offered a good approximation to actual voting behaviour; in more recent years however, there have been differing turnout levels among the supporters of the various parties.

Q1a **How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?**
Q1b **Which party are you most inclined to support?**

	%
Conservative	42
Labour	37
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	7
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	4
Green Party	7
Other	1
Conservative lead (+%)	+5
<i>Would not vote</i>	8
<i>Undecided</i>	8
<i>Refused</i>	3

Certainty of voting

- Q2 And how likely would you be to vote in the General Election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote?

	%
10 – absolutely certain to vote	67
9	5
8	4
7	5
6	2
5	5
4	1
3	2
2	2
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	5
Don't know	1

Satisfaction Ratings

Satisfaction among general public aged 18+

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Keir Starmer is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Ed Davey is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3) Feb '21	41	51	8	-10
<i>Dec '20</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-16</i>
Johnson (Q4) Feb '21	42	51	7	-9
<i>Dec '20</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>-8</i>
Starmer (Q5) Feb '21	40	35	24	+5
<i>Dec '20</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>+5</i>
Davey (Q6) Feb '21	14	40	47	-26
<i>Dec '20</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>-14</i>

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Keir Starmer is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?

Base: All party supporters (*Government is based on Conservative supporters)

	Base	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Net satisfaction ±
Government (Q3) Feb '21	342	78	19	3	+59
Dec '20	324	69	21	10	+48
Johnson (Q4) Feb '21	342	79	19	2	+60
Dec '20	324	78	17	4	+61
Starmer (Q5) Feb '21	354	58	25	17	+33
Dec '20	350	56	25	19	+31

Economic Optimism Index

- Q7 Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

	Feb '21 %	Dec '20 %
Improve	29	27
Stay the same	9	7
Get worse	60	63
Don't know	2	4
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	-31	-36

Coronavirus

Q9 Overall, how well or badly do you think each of the following have handled the coronavirus outbreak so far?

	Very well	Fairly well	Neither well nor badly	Fairly badly	Very badly	Don't know	Don't know who they are	Very/fairly well	Very/fairly badly	Net well
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Government										
Feb 2021	10	28	15	18	28	1	*	38	46	-8
<i>Dec 2020</i>	6	31	15	23	24	1	*	37	47	-10
<i>October 2020</i>	5	25	16	24	26	2	1	30	50	-20
<i>Sept 2020</i>	7	25	18	23	27	*	*	32	50	-18
<i>August 2020</i>	9	33	16	20	20	2	*	42	40	+2
<i>June 2020</i>	8	32	14	21	23	1	*	40	44	-4
<i>March 2020</i>	10	39	13	20	15	2	1	49	35	+14
Boris Johnson										
Feb 2021	13	26	12	16	30	1	1	39	46	-7
<i>Dec 2020</i>	8	29	15	19	27	*	*	37	46	-9
<i>October 2020</i>	10	22	11	23	33	1	*	32	56	-24
<i>August 2020</i>	12	31	12	17	26	1	*	43	43	0
<i>June 2020</i>	13	32	12	17	25	1	*	45	42	+3
<i>March 2020</i>	13	34	13	17	21	2	1	47	38	+9
Keir Starmer										
Feb 2021	5	27	28	13	9	8	11	32	22	+10
<i>Dec 2020</i>	5	26	23	14	9	8	16	31	23	+8
<i>October 2020</i>	5	28	24	13	9	9	12	33	22	+11
<i>August 2020</i>	5	26	30	8	6	9	17	31	14	+17
Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care										
Feb 2021	10	30	11	18	23	2	6	40	41	-1
<i>October 2020</i>	6	20	17	22	26	4	5	26	48	-22
<i>August 2020</i>	10	28	16	18	20	4	5	38	38	0
<i>June 2020</i>	13	29	12	19	18	3	7	42	37	+5
<i>March 2020</i>	7	32	15	15	8	7	15	39	23	+16
Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer										
Feb 2021	18	37	12	10	10	3	9	55	20	+35
<i>October 2020</i>	20	31	16	10	8	5	10	51	18	+33
<i>August 2020</i>	23	37	11	7	6	3	13	60	13	+47
<i>June 2020</i>	29	31	11	8	6	4	12	60	14	+46
<i>March 2020</i>	10	31	19	9	4	10	17	41	13	+28

Government performance

Q10. Do you think the government has done a good job or bad job at...?

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %	Net good job
Ensuring the UK has a Coronavirus vaccine				
Feb 2021	86	7	7	+79
Dec 2020	80	13	8	+67
Ensuring the public are vaccinated as soon as possible				
Feb 2021	78	16	6	+62
Making sure different groups of the population are vaccinated in the right order				
Feb 2021	75	17	8	+58

Q11a. Do you think that Boris Johnson or Keir Starmer would do a better job at managing Britain's response to the coronavirus from now until the pandemic is over?

Q11b. And do you think that Boris Johnson or Keir Starmer would do a better job at managing Britain's recovery from the pandemic once it is over?

	Boris Johnson %	Keir Starmer %	No difference %	Neither %	Don't know %
... managing Britain's response to the Coronavirus from now until the pandemic is over					
	44	27	7	7	15
... managing Britain's recovery from the pandemic once it is over					
	44	29	5	7	16

Parties and leaders

Q11. How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?

	A great deal %	A fair amount %	Not very much %	Heard of, but know nothing %	Never heard of them %	Don't know %
Boris Johnson, Prime Minister						
Feb 2021	30	55	13	1	*	1
Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour party						
Feb 2021	6	33	39	13	7	1
Jeremy Corbyn, former Leader of the Labour party						
Feb 2021	19	46	23	8	2	2

Q13 On balance, do you agree or disagree that ... has what it takes to be a good Prime Minister?

Base: All respondents.

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
Boris Johnson	Feb '21	17	25	12	16	28	2	42	44	-2
	Aug '20	20	25	11	11	32	1	45	43	+2
	Feb '20	25	24	8	10	30	3	49	40	+9
	July '19	19	19	13	13	30	5	38	43	-5
	June '19	14	20	10	13	40	3	34	53	-19
	May '19	11	14	7	12	52	3	25	64	-39
	Mar '19	8	16	7	15	49	5	24	64	-40
	Sep '18	9	16	8	13	51	3	25	64	-39
	Jul '18	12	13	6	13	53	3	25	66	-41
	Apr '18	7	10	5	19	53	6	17	72	-55
	Jul '16	11	10	5	22	48	4	21	70	-49
	Jul '15	13	19	11	21	31	6	32	52	-20
	Jul '14	12	20	9	20	34	5	32	54	-22
Keir Starmer	Feb '21	11	25	27	12	13	12	36	25	+11
	Aug '20	14	24	24	10	14	14	38	24	+14
	Feb '20	11	21	20	11	14	22	32	25	+7

Base: Own party supporters

		Base	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
Boris Johnson	Feb '21	342	41	38	8	5	7	1	79	12	+67
	Aug '20	370	46	41	4	6	2	1	87	8	+79
	Feb '20	413	53	35	6	2	2	1	88	4	+84
	July '19	323	46	31	9	6	4	4	77	10	+67
	June '19	252	29	30	11	15	13	1	59	28	+31
	May '19	322	13	23	9	20	33	2	36	53	-17
	Mar '19	324	12	20	7	18	40	4	32	58	-26
	Sep '18	334	13	26	7	16	35	4	39	51	-12
	Jul '18	382	10	21	9	19	38	4	31	57	-26
	Apr '18	340	11	15	6	30	32	6	26	62	-36
	Jul '16	292	9	14	6	29	39	3	23	68	-45
	Jul '15	312	20	27	8	26	16	3	47	42	5
	Jul '14	242	21	26	12	18	19	4	47	37	10
Keir Starmer	Feb '21	354	23	37	26	7	2	5	60	9	+51
	Aug '20	320	25	35	23	5	4	8	60	9	+51
	Feb '20	278	20	25	23	9	4	19	45	13	+32

Q15 Which political party, if any, do you think...?

	Cons %	Lab %	Lib Dems %	None of these %	Other %	Don't know %
... has the best team of leaders to deal with the country's problems?						
Feb 2021	41	21	1	11	7	20
<i>May 2017</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Jan 2016</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>June 2014</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>February 2010</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>
...is the most clear and united about what its policies should be?						
Feb 2021	32	16	2	18	13	20
<i>May 2017</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Jan 2016</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>June 2014</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>April 2014</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>15</i>

Q15. Taking everything into account, do you think that since he became leader Keir Starmer has changed the Labour party for the better, for the worse or has he made no difference?

	Among all %	Among 2019 Lab voters %	Among 2019 Con voters %
For the better	48	54	54
For the worse	4	8	1
Made no difference	35	31	36
Don't know	13	8	9

Q16. Do you think Keir Starmer has done a good job or bad job at...?

	Good job %	Bad job %	Neither %	Don't know %	Net good job
Giving you a reason to vote Labour					
Among all	35	37	13	15	-2
2019 Lab voters	60	24	9	6	+36
2019 Con voters	23	55	14	8	-32
Demonstrating he has a clear vision for the country					
Among all	37	34	9	20	+3
2019 Lab voters	51	27	11	11	+24
2019 Con voters	31	49	7	13	-18

Q17.

(b) Keir Starmer is ready to be Prime Minister?

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Agree	Disagree
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Keir Starmer	Feb '21	12	21	20	18	19	10	33	37
<i>Jeremy Corbyn</i>	<i>Nov '19</i>	11	13	8	12	53	2	24	65
	<i>Sept '19</i>	12	15	9	11	52	1	27	63
	<i>May '17</i>	14	17	4	14	46	5	31	60
	<i>May '16</i>	10	12	5	19	46	7	22	65
<i>Ed Miliband</i>	<i>Feb '15</i>	8	13	11	20	43	4	21	63
	<i>Jun '14</i>	7	15	9	22	43	4	22	65
	<i>Apr '13</i>	8	16	6	24	42	5	24	66
	<i>May '11</i>	3	14	7	32	37	7	17	69
<i>Tony Blair</i>	<i>Apr '97</i>						13	53	34